

# EVENTS DIARY

2011

## DECEMBER

Sat 10th Community Fair  
Christmas Parade

2012

## FEBRUARY

Sat 8th MK Dons - Buckingham Big Day

## MARCH

Sat 3rd Pancake Race  
Fri 9th – Sun 11th Twinning Anniversary Event  
Sat 10th Fair Trade Coffee Morning  
Sat 17th Green Fair

## MAY

Sat 5th May Day

## JUNE

Sun 3rd Spring Music Festival  
Continental Market  
Sat 2nd – Tue 5th Diamond Jubilee Celebrations  
Fri 8th Youth Project  
Sat 16th – 23rd Buckingham Fringe  
Sat 30th – 7th July Buckingham Summer Festival

## AUGUST

Sun 26th BandJam  
Continental Market

## SEPTEMBER

Sun 16th River Rinse 1

## OCTOBER

Sun 7th River Rinse 2  
Fri 12th Local Democracy Event  
Sat 13th Charter Fair  
Sat 20th Charter Fair

## NOVEMBER

Sat 3rd Bonfire & Fireworks  
Buckingham Acoustic in the Market  
Sun 11th Remembrance Day Parade  
Sun 24th Christmas Lights & Carols  
Continental Market

## DECEMBER

Sat 8th Community Fair  
Christmas Parade



# Buckingham TownMatters

Winter 2011

## in this issue

what your  
local councils  
do for you

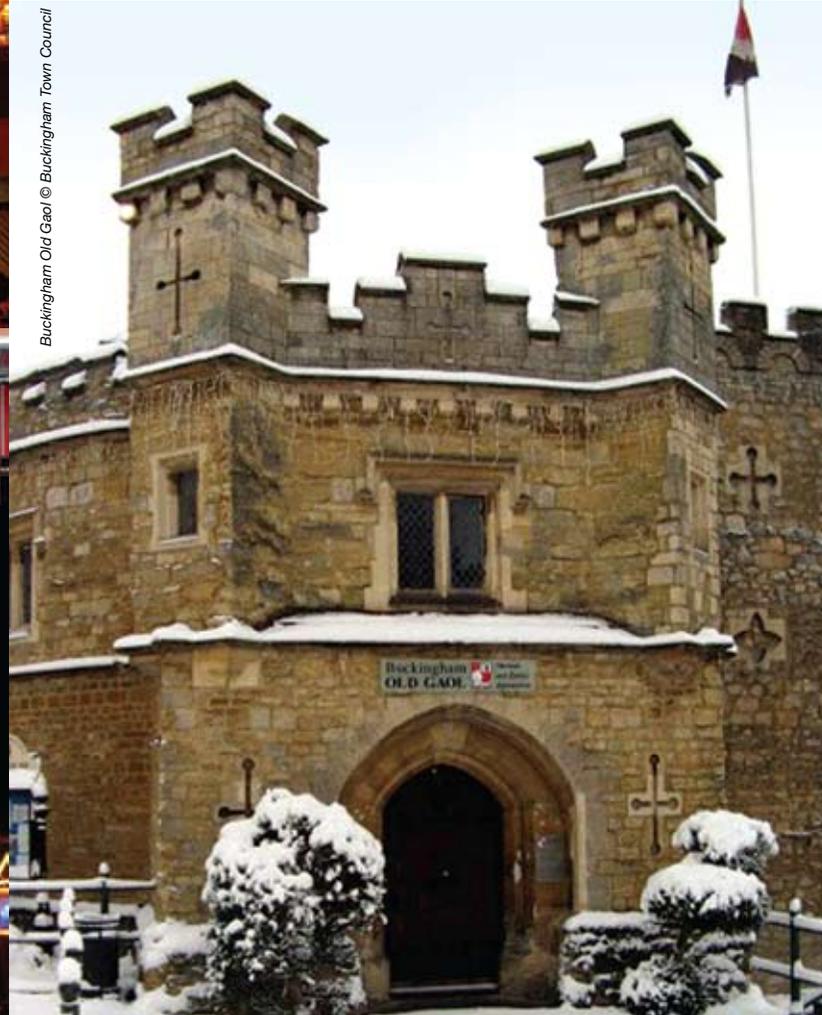
what's in  
your river?

best kept  
town

youth council

bandjam 2011  
review

comedy  
club launch



Buckingham Old Gaol © Buckingham Town Council

## Christmas Photographic Competition

**The Challenge** – Submit a spring picture.  
**The Prize** – YOUR picture on the FRONT page of the Spring edition of Buckingham Town Matters!  
For further details see page 14

Thoroughly MODERN  
Traditional  
BUCKINGHAM



with the car for your Christmas shopping. Last year, Margie and I took pride in getting all our presents and consumables locally – we proved that it could be done, intend to do the same this year – and would invite you to do the same.

The period after Christmas is often a bit depressing, but your Town Council has its usual repertoire of goodies to give you something to look forward to – see the list of Events elsewhere in this issue.

But that's not all. Why not kick off 2012 at the Buckingham Big Day match with MK Dons on February 18th? Tickets are available at much reduced prices for those with an MK18 post code, and even greater savings can be made by groups.

The coming year also sees the 10th Anniversary of Buckingham being twinned with Mouvaux, and a modest celebration of that milestone is being planned by our Twinning Association in March. Why not come along?

2012 will also be a celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. As part of the festivities planned for early June, we are planning to be one of the Beacon sites, so look out for announcements about a bit of a celebration in Bourton Park. Why not plan a Street Party with your neighbours, or join one of the organised events that we know are being planned?

Yes, times are a bit hard – but there's plenty to smile about.

**Mike Smith**  
**Buckingham Town Mayor**

## A Message from Mayor Mike

**Mayor Mike and Mayoress Margie wish everyone living and working in Buckingham a very happy festive season, and hope that 2012 brings good fortune and success to all.**

We don't need telling that the recession is beginning to bite. Every week sees something going up in price, and unemployment in the Vale is creeping up. Nevertheless, we feel sure that Buckingham folk will, in their customary way, put that behind them for a few days and enjoy the seasonal holiday. But please do remember that, tough as things may be for you, they are even tougher for others. If you can contribute something to those less fortunate than yourselves, please enter into the spirit of the season and do so.

But even though times may be getting hard, Christmas needn't cost a fortune. Our local shops are brimming with goodies, so there is no need to brave the elements and travel further afield

# The Changing Face of Buckingham...Part 1

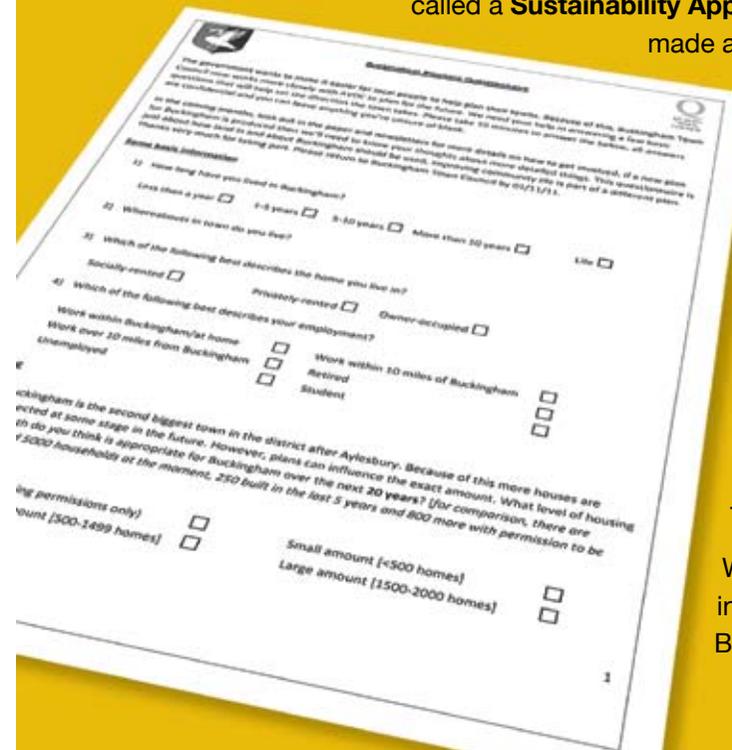
You may have noticed in the newspapers how the Government is planning big changes to planning law, and wondered how this will affect things nearer to home. The simple answer is that we shall have a greater say in future developments taking place in our town – but of course, it isn't quite as simple as that. Your Town Council is currently working on a **Neighbourhood Plan for Buckingham** which, along with similar plans from other towns and the larger villages, will feed into the Vale of Aylesbury Plan. Neighbourhood Plans are not just wish-lists – they have to meet certain legal requirements, including full justification for the preferences expressed.

One of the legal necessities is to seek opinions from those affected by the Neighbourhood Plan – which is why we have circulated questionnaires around the town, in order to get as many views as possible. If you have yet to complete a questionnaire, please pick one up at the library, or fill one in via our website [www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk](http://www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk)

The questionnaire responses will be fed into the first stage of the process, called a **Sustainability Appraisal**, which will then be made available for you to comment on. We shall then move on to testing some of the ideas you come up with.

All this is time-consuming and costly, but Buckingham Town Council is one of 126 areas in the country designated "frontrunners" for Neighbourhood Planning, and so has received a grant of £20,000 to help deliver the goods.

We'll report further in future editions of Buckingham Town Matters.



# ROAD GRITTING & SNOW CLEARANCE

Advance weather forecasts predict heavy snow in December – again. Whereas we can hope that the meteorologists have got it wrong, **Transport for Buckinghamshire** (part of Bucks County Council) are working on their snow clearance schedules.

Unfortunately, their resources will not permit them to clear all roads, so some parts of Buckingham will present a challenge to pedestrians and motorists alike.

At present, it is highly unlikely that all town centre bus and school routes will be gritted. Side roads certainly won't be, and we hope that the increase in the numbers of grit bins will allow residents to make their immediate localities a little safer – but remember that these are for use on the road and footway, not for clearing your drive! Some local farmers

in the county have been contracted to help with the more rural areas, and our maintenance team will be out and about in the town centre again, as they did last year.

In previous years, shop keepers and residents have been wary of clearing pavements etc. outside their properties in case they get sued by someone slipping over. Bucks County Council advise that it is OK to sweep snow away, and to put down salt to prevent ice forming, but urge you not to try and melt ice with hot water – it just re-freezes. If you are inclined to clear the path outside your property, perhaps you could also consider doing a neighbour's path if they are elderly or otherwise unable to clear it themselves.

And while talking about helping others, do you own a 4x4 vehicle?

If so, would you be prepared to help Home Carers do their essential work when road conditions prevent them from using their own cars?

If so, please call **01296 383409**

or email [locality-services@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:locality-services@buckscc.gov.uk)

for more information – many thanks.

## Do

Use grit/salt

Clear path

Help a neighbour

Use a windscreen protector cover

Clear any snow off the roof of the vehicle before you drive off

## Don't

Use hot water to clear snow

Steer or brake sharply when driving

Make unnecessary journeys

Shovel snow into the streets

Park unnecessarily on the streets



## FLORAL BUCKINGHAM 2011

Preston Bissett Nurseries supplied good quality plants for this year's hanging baskets. Constant watering and maintenance throughout the summer by Buckingham Town Council's Green Spaces team helped keep these floral decorations looking great.

The hanging baskets were sponsored this year by Jardine's the Chemist, Winstons Jewellers, Faulknors, Busiprint, and the landlords for Meadow Row and Meadow Walk.

So a special thanks to all those involved – and if any other traders want to join in and take part next year, they are more than welcome!

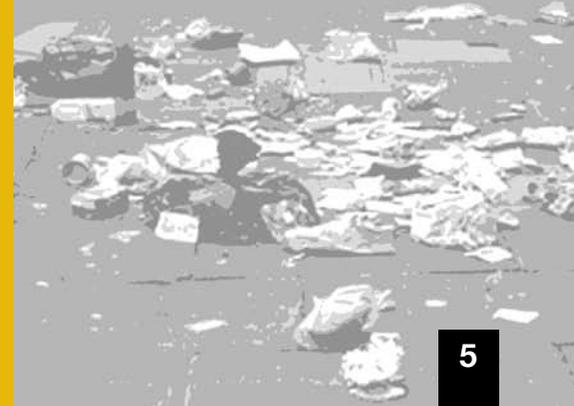
# KEEPING YOUR TOWN CLEAN & TIDY

**Aylesbury Vale District Council is responsible for the street cleaning in the town.**

The town centre receives a daily clean (both mechanically and by hand), and the adopted estate roads receive a mechanical clean once every three months. The next scheduled mechanical clean for Buckingham is during week commencing 26th December. Please note that if there are cars parked on the roads then the mechanical cleaner will not be able to do a thorough job.

Despite the huge amount of rubbish thoughtlessly left in the town centre on Friday and Saturday nights, our street cleaners do a magnificent job in removing it early in the morning.

This was most noticeable following the two weekends that the Charter Fair was in town, and drew congratulatory remarks from (amongst others) our local police officers.





# BANDJAM 2011 REVIEW

The 6th annual BandJam Big Bash was held in the Bull Ring, Buckingham, on Sunday 28th August. This popular free event was opened by the **Town Crier** and **Buckingham Town Mayor, Cllr. Mike Smith**.

The music kicked off with high-octane opening act **Spaced Out**, followed by **Never on a Tuesday**. Other lively performances came from bands such as **Retros**, **Progression** and **My Holiday Romance** to name but a few of the ten providing music throughout the

afternoon and evening. Aylesbury-based street dancers **Lock Down** entertained the large crowds with their street dancing, and the night ended with headlining act **Leatherat**, a punk/folk group from Banbury.

Town Council staff and Councillors were present throughout the event, the weather was kind, and it was apparent that a good time was had by all.

We look forward to seeing you there next year, at the same time and place!



## RIVER RINSE

### Horses head found in Buckingham river!!

Well who would have thought it? An actual horses head (well, its skull) was found amongst other items including a 'To Let' sign, a bicycle and an office chair.



This year's annual river rinses were held on Sunday 18th September and Sunday 9th October. The first rinse was from Silver Bridge by Stratford Fields car park and went up as far as Cornwall's Meadow car park. The second rinse started at the bypass bridge by Bourton Park car park and ended at the junction with the Otter Brook.

Apart from the articles mentioned above, we recovered car tyres, parking cones and barriers as well as quite a lot of tree debris.

So it's a big **THANK YOU** to the volunteers from **Stowe Sub Aqua Club**, **Buckingham Town Council** and all those members of the public who also turned out to help.



# WHAT YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS DO FOR YOU

Now under 1 roof in Buckingham – Buckingham Centre, Verney Close, Buckingham, MK18 1JP



## What Buckingham Town Council is responsible for:

- Most events in town
- Buckingham planning application responses
- Bourton and Chandos Parks
- Chandos Park public toilets
- Public play areas (excluding Ottersbrook, Bridge Street, Overn Crescent & Wittmills Oak)
- Town Cemetery & Burials
- Provision of litter and dog bins (but not emptying)
- Provision of salt bins (but not refilling)
- Bus Shelter (Stratford Road)
- Christmas Lights and High Street pea lights
- Planters & Hanging Baskets
- Markets (Street, Flea & Speciality)
- Railway and Circular Walks
- Town Map
- Grants to local organisations

### Buckingham Town Council Office

Tues–Thurs 9:30–5pm,  
Wed 9:30–2pm,  
Friday 9:30–3pm  
Mondays, and Wednesday afternoons,  
by appointment only

**Tel: 01280 816 426**

**[www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk](http://www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk)**



## What Aylesbury Vale District Council is responsible for:

- Council Tax
- Council Housing (via VAHT)
- Household waste and recycling collection
- Environmental Health (including noise nuisance and pest control)
- Emergency Planning and flood prevention
- Licensing (alcohol, public entertainment, taxis)
- Leisure Services
- Planning Application decisions and forward planning
- Planning Enforcement
- Conservation areas, listed and historic buildings
- Public car parking areas
- Open Spaces (excluding Bourton & Chandos Parks)
- Hunter Street churchyard
- Grass cutting & horticulture
- Trees – protection, condition and safety
- Road sweeping and litterpicking
- Dog & Litter bin emptying
- Clearing fly-tipping
- Bus Shelter (High Street)
- Moreton Road public toilets
- Swan Pool and all-weather pitch

### Aylesbury Vale District Council

Mondays Closed, Tuesdays–Thursdays  
9:30–5pm, Wednesday 9:30–2pm  
Friday 9:30–4.45pm

### Customer Service Centre

66 High Street, Aylesbury, HP20 1SD  
Mon–Wednesday 8:45–5:15pm  
Thursday 9:45–5:15pm, Friday 8:45–4:45pm

**Tel: 01296 58 58 58**

**[www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk](http://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk)**



## What Buckinghamshire County Council is responsible for:

- Maintenance of pavements, roads & drainage
- Gritting
- Parking restrictions, speed limits and road closures
- Road signs and street furniture such as traffic lights
- Street lighting
- Education including Adult and Further Education and Student Grants
- Public Transport including school buses
- Rights of Way, Public Footpaths, Cycleways and Bridle Paths
- Social Services including care of children and the elderly
- Youth Services
- Strategic Planning (transport, waste disposal)
- Household Waste & Recycling Centre (“the tip”)

### Buckinghamshire County Council

Mondays Closed,  
Tuesdays–Thursdays 9:30–5pm  
Wednesday 9:30–2pm  
Friday 9:30–4.45pm

### County Hall

Walton Street, Aylesbury, HP20 1UA  
Monday–Friday 8:30–5:30pm

**Tel: 0845 3 70 80 90**

**[www.buckscc.gov.uk](http://www.buckscc.gov.uk)**

## Rivers:

- Owners of property including part of the riverbank are responsible for keeping that part of the river clean as far as the centre line.

- Dredging by

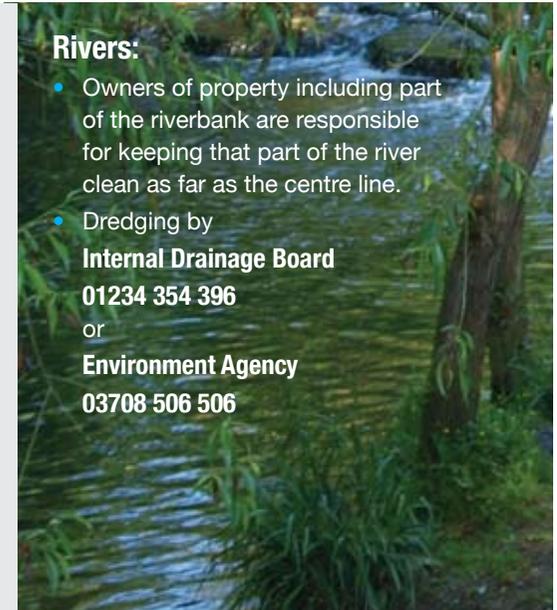
### Internal Drainage Board

**01234 354 396**

or

### Environment Agency

**03708 506 506**



The Buckingham Centre

# Handy Hints to Keep You Safe from Crime

## Keeping your home safe

A dark house at this time of the year is a sure sign that there's no one at home. You can fool a burglar by having a light on a timer switch that comes on when it gets dark. They are a cheap and easy solution to make your home looked lived-in, especially if you are a commuter who returns home late or in the evening, or if you go away for the holidays.

In the event your property is stolen, property marking your belongings with a UV pen is an effective way for the police to identify your possessions, should they later be recovered. If your windows and doors are locked sufficiently and belongings such as car keys and mobile phones are hidden from view, it is unlikely that you will be a victim of burglary.

**We want everyone to have a good time at Christmas, especially at all the parties. Taxis can be in short supply at peak times in the holidays – make sure you book yours ahead of time, so you know you can get home safely. If you have to walk home, don't walk alone and let someone know where you are.**

**Finally, have a safe and happy Christmas and New Year!**

- **Mark valuables with a UV Pen** •
  - **Hide keys** •
- **Lights on / Timer switch** •
  - **Cat bell your purse** •
- **Belongings out of sight** •
- **Remain alert when out and about** •

## Keeping yourself safe

Thieves love Christmas. The crowded shops are a magnet for pick-pockets. You can protect your purse by attaching a cat bell to it – the noise will alert you if anyone tries to swipe it from your bag or pocket.

Another way to keep your handbag safe is to have the zip facing frontwards so you can see it, which makes it less likely a theft will take place. If it has a shoulder strap, wear it diagonally so that it cannot easily be snatched.

When you do the big Christmas shop, don't leave shopping bags on display in your car. Lock them in the boot, out of sight, or use the parcel pick-up service that many larger stores now offer.

# BUCKINGHAM JUDGED BEST AGAIN!!

## Best Kept Town 2011 – the Michaelis Cup

(communities with populations over 3000)

Buckingham has won the Best Kept Town for the fourth time. After winning it in 2002, 2005 and 2008, the Town Council is pleased to announce that the Michaelis Cup is again in pride of place in the Council Chamber.

In June the judges visited the Town and gave marks out of 100 for Places of Worship, Parks, verges and flower beds, Memorials etc. Additional marks are awarded for general appearance and evidence of community effort, including such things as noticeboards being up-to-date. Buckingham scored 9/10 on this category, giving an overall total of 88/100.

On 10th September 2011, Buckingham played host to VIPs from BALC (Bucks. Association of Local Councils) who organise the Competition. **The Lord-Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire, Sir Henry Aubrey-Fletcher**, presented the **Town's Deputy Mayor, Cllr. Ms. Ruth Newell**, with the award and admired the beautiful backdrop of the Buckingham Old Gaol.



The Judges felt that the overall standards in the town were very high with improvements made in some categories. This is down to hard work by the Town Council's Green Spaces and Events team.

Next year the town will be aiming to keep the standard high and maybe secure the Tindal Cup, which is the cup winners' cup for winners of the previous year's competition.

# Buckingham Town Youth Council – Giving Youth a Voice



The Youth Council was formed on the 1st July 2011 consisting of 5 students from the Royal Latin School, 2 students from The Buckingham School and 1 student from Kingsbrook. The young people are also representing the Air & Army Cadets, the Youth Centre and the Scouts, and are supported by **Councillor Lisa O'Donoghue** and the **Deputy Town Clerk Mrs Anita Simonds**.

The Youth Councillors have moved quickly in recognising some issues within our town and beyond – these include the lack of:

- Transport to nearby villages
- A cinema
- A shelter or place to sit in Bourton Park for older teens
- An outdoors 'teenage' music event (like BandJam)
- An "Under 18's event" in a nightclub environment (like Oceana in MK, who have monthly events but can exclude those without the means to get home after 10pm due to transport issues)
- Any form of ID for anyone under 16 years of age
- The Youth Councillors having any formal identification, and
- A means of young people contacting the Youth Council.

Moving on some of these issues, **Vice Chair Councillor Hannah Russell** is in the process of writing to the transport and cinema companies, whilst their Clerk is finding out about the possibility of a further shelter in Bourton Park. Councillor Lisa O'Donoghue is designing an ID badge for the Youth Councillors to wear and advice was given on possible funding sources if the Youth Council wish to look into a town-wide under 18's ID scheme. An email address was also created for the Youth Council – **BuckinghamTownYouthCouncil@gmail.com** and Councillor **Adam Bradbury** will be setting up a Facebook page shortly.

Thanks to the diligent work of the Youth Council, especially the Chair, **Councillor Jordan Mayer**, Buckingham's first "Under 18's night" was held on Tuesday 25th October from 7pm to 11pm at 13 High Street. They were helped by **Amanda Brubaker**, the Town Council Events Assistant; **Councillor Lisa O'Donoghue**; and **Kate Richardson** from the Youth Centre. The manager of 13 High Street was incredibly supportive and is willing to put on more "under 18's" events which, given the success of the pilot event, is great to hear as this could become a regular place for our young people to go!

## YOUTH CENTRE

When Buckingham County Council withdrew all youth funding in Buckingham, Buckingham Town Council decided that such a valuable resource should not be lost. As a consequence, it now funds youth works.

In February Buckingham Town Council agreed to set aside £15,000 to help fund youth workers at Buckingham Youth Centre. The Centre was facing an uncertain time, with Buckinghamshire County Council making large cuts to their Youth Services budget. Members of the Youth Centre Management Committee and a number of young people approached the Town Council and asked it for help. Since then, the Youth Centre Management Committee has been hard at work preparing for the termination of the funding from BCC.



A new not-for-profit company has been formed to run the Tuesday and Thursday evening youth clubs and the Music club on Friday nights. Town Council funding has provided money to employ a Youth Leader and Assistant Youth Leaders, as well as providing professional support to the Music club – thereby saving five jobs and the service in Buckingham.

The funding for this year allows the Youth Club Management Committee to seek longer-term funding to ensure that our Youth Clubs can continue into the future.

**If you can help, please get in contact and be a part of it!**

Day	Time	Age	Club
Monday	7.00pm – 9:30pm	14–16	Years 10 and 11
Thursday	7.00pm – 9:30pm	12–14	Years 8 and 9
Friday	4.00pm – 7.00pm	13–19	Music Club
Last Friday of the month	4.00pm – 9.30pm	13–19	Music Club
3rd Friday of the month	7.00pm – 9.00pm	11–19	Young Carers' Club
Every Other Sunday	12.30pm – 3.00pm		Clearly Speaking Club for special needs

(No lunch time clubs running at present)

Our Youth Council still has 6 seats available to students of The Buckingham School and 2 seats open to the Royal Latin School. If you are interested in representing the youth of Buckingham, live or go to school in Buckingham

and are aged between 11 & 18, please contact **Mrs Anita Simonds** at the Town Council (telephone **01280 816426**) or email the Youth Council directly.

# CHRISTMAS PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

**How about this... Your very own picture on the FRONT page of the next edition of Buckingham Town Matters.**

Simply obtain an application form from Buckingham Town Council by:

**Email:** [admin@buckingham-tc.gov.uk](mailto:admin@buckingham-tc.gov.uk)

**Website Link:** [www.Buckingham-tc.gov.uk](http://www.Buckingham-tc.gov.uk)

**In Person:** see page 8 for the address

Fill it in and return it back to us with your own digital photo. It couldn't be any easier! All entrants must live in Buckingham, if under the age of 18 must have parents' consent. Further terms & conditions apply. All entrants must be accompanied by a completed application form. Closing date 10th January 2012.



## Buckingham launches Comedy Club Night with comedian Miles Jupp

Due to the success of the Comedy Night which was part of the Buckingham Fringe week in June of this year, which featured female comedian Shappi Khorsandi, Buckingham Town Council's Town Centre & Events Committee has decided to hold regular comedy nights at the Old Town Hall, starting on the **29th January 2012**.

The Town Council is excited to announce that comedian, actor and writer **Miles Jupp** will headline the first Comedy Night. Miles has appeared on **Mock The Week**, **Michael McIntyre's Comedy Roadshow** and **Have I Got News for You**. He is well known as **Archie the Inventor** in **CBeebies' 'Balamory'**. He is currently starring in the BBC sitcom **Rev**, as Nigel, a Church of England Lay Reader.

Tickets available, please contact **Amanda Brubaker**, Events Assistant, Buckingham Town Council on **01280 816426** or email [events@buckingham-tc.gov.uk](mailto:events@buckingham-tc.gov.uk)

## Buckingham Town Councillors

### BUCKINGHAM NORTH

Cllr. Tony Chan	01280 816 517
Cllr. Paddy Collins	01280 823 006
Cllr. Jon Harvey	01280 812 711
Cllr. Derrick Isham	01280 813 770
Cllr. Rob Lehmann	01280 817 331
Cllr. Andy Mahi	01280 816 562
Cllr. Howard Mordue	01280 815 418
Cllr. Ms Ruth Newell	01280 815 229
Cllr. Martin Try	01280 816 202

### BUCKINGHAM SOUTH

Cllr. Terry Bloomfield	01280 815 336
Cllr. Hedley Cadd	01280 814 112
Cllr. Mrs Geraldine Collins	01280 823 006
Cllr. Paul Hirons	01280 812 072
Cllr. Mrs Lisa O'Donoghue	01280 824 624
<b>Cllr. Mike Smith Mayor</b>	<b>01280 822 215</b>
Cllr. Robin Stuchbury	01280 824 285
Cllr. Warren Whyte	01280 820 531

### Other useful Numbers

Buckinghamshire County Council	08453 70 80 90
Highways on Call	08452 30 28 82
Aylesbury Vale District Council	01296 58 58 58
Buckingham Winslow & District CAB	01280 81 67 07
Buckingham Tourist Information Centre	01280 82 30 20
Buckingham Community Centre	01280 82 35 84

## Your views count

Buckingham Town Matters is produced by Buckingham Town Council in order to provide you with a taste of what keeps Councillors and staff busy. But this is also an invitation for you to tell us what you think of what we do, and what you think we should be doing. We are all working together to make Buckingham an even better place, so please let us know:

- what you think we should carry on doing
- what you think we should stop doing, or do less of
- what you think we should start doing, or do a lot more of

**You can email us or just drop us a line at the address below. We look forward to hearing from you.**

**Town Council Office, Buckingham Centre, Verney Close, Buckingham MK18 1JP**  
Email: [office@buckingham-tc.gov.uk](mailto:office@buckingham-tc.gov.uk)

**Just a reminder...** All Town Council meetings are open to the public, you are invited to come along and give us your views.